

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

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NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing

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07.06.2004

Applicant's or agent's file reference

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IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.

PCT/IB 02/00615

International filing date (day/month/year)

01.03.2002

Priority date (day/month/year)

01.03.2002

Applicant

CEVIK, Ayla

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.

2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.

3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

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PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 111111	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA416)
International application No. PCT/IB 02/00615	International filing date (day/month/year) 01.03.2002	Priority date (day/month/year) 01.03.2002	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC D06F73/02, D06F73/02			
Applicant CEVIK, Ayla			
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of 14 sheets.</p>			
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinionII <input type="checkbox"/> PriorityIII <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicabilityIV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of inventionV <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statementVI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents citedVII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international applicationVIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application			
Date of submission of the demand 30.09.2003		Date of completion of this report 07.06.2004	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465		Authorized Officer Weinberg, E Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2298 	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/IB 02/00615

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-26 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-23 received on 27.04.2004 with letter of 19.04.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1/14-14/14 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/IB 02/00615**

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-23
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-23
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-23
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

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1. Novelty (Article 33(2) PCT)

The closest prior art is represented by document US 3 849 815 A (D1) which discloses (see D1, column 1, line 55 - column 10, line 26) a method of automatically ironing textile articles and the like for both domestic and industrial purposes by increasing the pressure, temperature, humidity of the air inside the container in which the textile articles and the like are placed to a pre-selected level by producing steam and guiding it into the container, heating the air in the container in wet ironing stage, then providing a rest period.

However, D1 fails to disclose that the method comprises compressing air and guiding the compressed air into the container in wet and/or dry ironing mode, as well as that the method provides a rest period for a pre-selected time so that the textile articles and the like remain at pre-selected levels of air temperature, air humidity, and air pressure.

To the contrary, D1 discloses a method of short abrupt treatments of saturated or hot steam wherein the pressure is lowered to a vacuum by condensation of the moisture on the clothing, i.e. the pressure and humidity is changed throughout the rest period (see D1, e.g. abstract, claims 1-13).

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

Further, D1 fails also to disclose all the features of the subject-matter of independent apparatus-claims 4 or 5, in particular D1 does not disclose the temperature detecting means, the pressure detecting means, the humidity detecting means, the condensation detecting means, the air compressor with its compressed air storage tank and the refrigerating system of these claims which are required to carry out the method of claims 1.

Therefore, the subject-matter of claims 4, 5 is also new (Article 33(2) PCT).

2. Inventive Step (Article 33(3) PCT)

According to the description, the problem underlying the invention is to provide a method and an apparatus for automatically dewrinkling clothes items and the like in a simple and easy way which is effective in removing the wrinkles like the conventional irons (see page 2, line 28 - page 3, line 2).

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The independent claims 1, 4, 5 solve this problem by providing a method and a device to carry out said method in which temperature, humidity and pressure of the air inside the container in which the textile articles and the like are placed can be increased to and maintained at pre-selected levels by producing steam, compressing air and heating air. This has the advantage that the user can pre-select and maintain, i.e. control, the level of temperature, humidity and pressure independently.

D1 as closest prior art discloses only abrupt injections of saturated or hot steam at pressure above atmospheric pressure (see D1, e.g. abstract, figures), while document DE 36 00 953 A (D2) discloses only that steam and/or hot air is directed towards the textile articles inside a non-pressurized tunnel finisher (see D2, e.g. abstract, figures).

Also none of the other documents cited in the International Search Report does disclose alone or in combination with another document of the available prior art all the features of independent claims 1, 4 or 5.

Therefore, the skilled person set out to solve the above problem would not find any hint or incentive in the available prior art which would prompt him to modify the device of D1 or D2 such as suggested in the independent claims of the present application. Hence, the subject-matter of independent claims 1, 4, 5 involves an inventive step and meets the requirements of Article 33(3) PCT.

Consequently, the subject-matter of dependent claims 2, 3, 6-23 meets the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

3. Industrial Applicability

The subject-matter of claims 1-23 relates to a method or an apparatus, respectively, for automatically ironing textile articles, like clothes. The subject-matter of these claims is therefore industrial applicable and, consequently, meets the requirements of Article 33(4) PCT

4. Further Objections

However, although the subject-matter of the claims meets the requirements of Article 33 PCT, the application does not meet the following requirements:

- a. Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in documents D1 and D2 is not mentioned in the description, nor are these documents identified therein.
- b. Independent claims 1, 4, 5 are not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT with those features known in combination from the prior art being placed in the preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(i) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in the characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).
- c. The features of claim 2 are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).
- d. The description, in particular the summary of the invention on page 3, line 5 - page 5, line 30, is not in conformity with the claims contrary to Rule 5.1(iii) PCT and Article 6 PCT.
- e. The vague statement in the description on page 26, line 22, referring to "the spirit of the invention" implies that the subject-matter for which protection is sought may be different to that defined by the claims, thereby resulting in lack of clarity (Article 6 PCT) when used to interpret them.

Further, it is noted that the application as filed does not disclose a heater (45b) in a water tank (41). The application as filed discloses only a heater (45b) in a steam generating tank (40).

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CLAIMS

The invention, in which an exclusive property of right I claim, is defined by the claims as follows:

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1-A method of automatically ironing textile articles and the like for both domestic and industrial purposes by

10 increasing the pressure, temperature, humidity of the air inside a container in which the textile articles and the like are placed to a pre-selected level by producing steam and guiding it into the container(10), compressing air and guiding the compressed air into the container(10), heating the air in the container(10) in wet ironing stage, and/or by compressing air and guiding the compressed air into the container(10), heating the air in the container(10) in dry ironing stage,

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then, providing a rest period by stopping the operation for a pre-selected time so that the textile articles and the like remain at pre-selected levels in high-temperature, high-humidity, high-pressure air in wet ironing stage and/or in high-temperature, high-pressure air in dry ironing stage in order to achieve proper dewrinkling,

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removing excess heat and/or humidity from the textile articles and the like before ironing process is completed.

25 2-A method for automatically ironing textile articles and the like for both domestic and industrial ironing machines, as claimed in claim 1, comprising the following stages, and steps of these stages are:

Stage A- Wet ironing stage

- controlling if the doors of the apparatus(7, 31) are closed or not,
- 30 • starting to introduce water from the supply to the system if the doors of the apparatus(7, 31) are closed,